Scotland’s Squad Boosts Depth Ahead of Autumn Internationals

Edinburgh hooker Harri Morris and his club partner, Liam McConnell, capable of operating across the back row, may feature in Scotland’s fixtures against the United States, New Zealand, Argentina, and Tonga during the upcoming Autumn Internationals. Australia-born number eight Masibaka, currently with Montpellier, qualifies to represent Scotland through maternal lineage.

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British & Irish Lions centre Sione Tuipulotu will once again lead Gregor Townsend’s squad for the series, while Edinburgh captain Magnus Bradbury marks a significant return. Townsend praised Bradbury’s resurgence, explaining that the forward has performed consistently over recent months and developed strong leadership characteristics.

He noted that Bradbury’s reintroduction comes at an ideal time, emphasizing: Magnus has delivered excellent performances for an extended period. He’s matured into a genuine leader and thoroughly deserves another chance within the national setup. Townsend added that many players are entering their peak years, creating intense competition for selection.

Over the past couple of seasons, opportunities have opened for those previously outside the squad, but the environment has become far more competitive now.

With the Autumn Internationals approaching, competition for selection is fiercer than ever, and in several positions there’s remarkable depth, meaning some quality players will inevitably miss out.

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Townsend Praises Emerging Stars as Scotland Gear Up for Autumn Internationals 2025

The coach also commented on Alexander Masibaka’s progress, noting that the back-rower has featured in the last two national campaigns, performed impressively against the Māori All Blacks, and started the club season strongly with Montpellier. Townsend highlighted the youngster’s explosive pace, power, and tireless work rate, calling them crucial attributes that enhance Scotland’s overall balance.

The opening Test versus the USA falls outside the international window, restricting Scotland’s selection to those currently representing Edinburgh and Glasgow Warriors. Townsend believes this challenge offers an opportunity to observe emerging domestic talent in competitive action. He singled out Liam McConnell, relating his drive so far as a real breakthrough Autumn Internationals 2025 season.

Liam displays great determination and pride whenever he plays, Townsend remarked. He’s fully earned his shot to experience Test rugby. On Harri Morris, Townsend added that the hooker regularly delivers aggression and physical

presence at every level of play. Harri demonstrates a genuine Test-match mentality, assertive, energetic, and fearless, features we truly value within our forward group.

After more than three years away, Edinburgh's skipper, Magnus Bradbury, has officially been recalled to the Scotland setup for the upcoming Autumn Internationals. The 30-year-old back-rower, who last featured during the 2022 summer tour, rejoins the squad as one of the experienced figures guiding Townsend's expanded 45-man training pool.

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Scotland Vs New Zealand: Experience Meets Youth in Scotland's Autumn Internationals Squad

Bradbury is accompanied by clubmates Liam McConnell and Harri Morris, both newcomers earning their first senior call-ups following standout performances in the United Rugby Championship. Several seasoned campaigners, Zander Fagerson, Jack Dempsey, and Rory Darge, have also been included despite their recent injury setbacks with Glasgow Warriors.

Prop Zander Fagerson has been unavailable for club or country since early April, whereas Jack Dempsey has remained sidelined since the Six Nations encounter with Wales in March. Their exact readiness for involvement in next month's fixtures, including the highly anticipated Scotland vs New Zealand clash against the USA, Argentina, and Tonga, remains uncertain.

Captain Sione Tuipulotu returns for his first national involvement since last autumn, following a period recovering from injury and subsequent commitments with the British and Irish Lions. Meanwhile, uncapped Montpellier forward Alexander Masibaka retains his position after impressing during Scotland’s South Pacific summer tour, as preparations intensify for the upcoming Autumn Internationals.

The 23-year-old’s combination of raw strength and mobility has drawn particular praise from the coaching group, who view him as a potential impact option off the bench. Townsend concluded by saying that this squad represents a strong balance between experience and emerging promise, stressing that players have earned selection through form and consistency rather than reputation.

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